

January 6, 2006

News Release

RED WING MAN WHO MOLESTED GIRL, BOY DEPORTED TO CANADA

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — An illegal alien living in Red Wing, Minn., was deported yesterday to Canada by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) after he completed a prison sentence for sexually molesting two minors.

ICE special agents located John Frank Bakos, 41, in Goodhue County Jail in February. On Feb. 4, 2005, Bakos pleaded guilty to first-degree criminal sexual conduct involving a girl, and to second-degree criminal sexual conduct involving a boy. He received consecutive sentences of 144 months and 27 months, respectively. The judge stayed these



sentences, but required a one-year term in Goodhue County Jail. Bakos was also sentenced to 30 years of probation upon his release, and was ordered to register as a sex offender.

Bakos entered the United States as a visitor in 1993, but violated the terms of his status by remaining beyond his required departure date. He settled in Red Wing, Minn.

Bakos began sexually molesting the girl in December 1999 when she was about 7 or 8 years old, according to a criminal complaint filed in Goodhue County District Court. The abuse continued through December 2003. Bakos sometimes gave the girl money after the sex acts, and promised to let her drive his truck when she was old enough, according to court documents.

Bakos also sexually molested a 13-year-old boy during a four-year period beginning in November 2000, according to court documents. Bakos also gave the boy alcohol, marijuana and methamphetamine.

"We take great pride in deporting this criminal, who has wrecked the lives of two Minnesota children," said Scott Baniecke, field office director for the ICE Bloomington office. "Removing dangerous sexual predators from our communities is a top priority." Baniecke oversees Detention and Removal Operations for a five-state area that includes Minnesota.

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Bakos was escorted to the U.S.-Canada border near Pembina, N.D., at about 2:30 p.m. yesterday. He has a criminal record in Canada that includes: possessing narcotics, breaking and entering, assault, possessing stolen property and impaired driving. Canadian authorities were notified in advance of his arrival.

Bakos's deportation is part of Operation Predator, ICE's comprehensive initiative to safeguard children from foreign national pedophiles, international sex tourists, Internet child pornographers, and human traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 6,900 individuals nationwide, including 200 in Minnesota, making it one of the top 10 states for these arrests.

To enhance efforts to protect children, ICE has formed partnerships with several non-governmental organizations, including the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) and World Vision's child sex tourism prevention project, to provide prevention and deterrence information to the public. ICE plans to expand these partnerships in the coming year.

Members of the public wishing to report suspicious activity may contact ICE at 1-866-DHS-2ICE or Operation.Predator@dhs.gov. NCMEC may be contacted at 1-800-843-5678 or at www.cybertipline.com. Additional information about the operation is posted at www.ice.gov.

NOTE: For a JPEG digital image file of Bakos, please contact Tim Counts at 952-853-2602 or via e-mail at <u>Tim.Counts@dhs.gov</u>. If you received this news release via e-mail, you may electronically copy the embedded JPEG image for print or broadcast use.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.